

Frank Wake

Private Investigative Services

A Limited Liability Corporation

PO Box 101691

Anchorage, AK 99510

907.223.4864

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FCC Mail Room

March 1, 2014

Thomas Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I read with interest recently your plan to repeal the ban on in-flight cell phone calls. This is a very bad idea. Please reconsider.

I am semi-retired, live in Alaska, travel for both business and pleasure and to get anywhere from Anchorage in a timely fashion it needs to be by plane. I fly commercially and hardly ever first class. To make reasonable connecting flights in the Lower 48, Alaskans must sometimes fly the red-eye. To understand the magnitude of what normal folks go through on an airplane you should try commuting from Alaska once in awhile.

The thought of being locked in a small space with dozens of passengers chatting endlessly about matters totally unimportant is a thought few of us senior citizens relish. Now such rude and likely unintended behavior is admonished. Travelers are told to turn off electronic equipment and do so when reminded. If and when you allow cell phone use claiming their ban "restrictive and outdated" it will no doubt quickly become "cruel and unusual" torture for those of us trapped and unable to seek the quiet in the space around us.

Obviously you don't fly steerage. You wouldn't know the ramifications of a policy you advocate to change. Flight attendants monitoring calls, settling disputes about loud and lingering worthless conversations, passengers not wanting to listen to both sides of a speaker phone conversation and a seatmate ignoring a plea for quiet are all issues you and the commission have apparently not considered. Or know little about. I suggest you and the other members of the commission try flying like the rest of the American population.

Cell phones are wonderful technology. So many of us now days cannot imagine life without one. However, we can all survive a few hours without it. Why would the Federal Communication Commission want to lift the ban? It seems unexplainable to me. When faced with an unwanted conversation between two people in a coffee shop or land based business, it's always possible to just get up and move away. Leave the overly loud and irresponsible behavior of others. That is not

possible on an airplane. I would suggest you and three or four other commission members get in a car and go on a road trip together. While in that car try listening to all of the other passengers talk on his or her cell phone...for three or more hours...non-stop. Then tell me it's a good idea to allow cell phone use on an airplane. (I note you are an Ohio State University grad as am I. You might want to consider the exercise I suggested above while driving from DC to Columbus for a football game. I suspect it will be the longest and most unpleasant trip you'll ever have.)

Certainly there must be more important rules the Federal Communication Commission can think of changing to make our lives better. This for sure is not one of them.

Sincerely,



Frank Wake

US Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
Federal Aviation Administration

fwake@gci.net

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